

jungles and neighbouring districts from November to May, remain in these areas throughout the year but, as they are much less noisy during the period from June to October, they are less in evidence and their presence is liable to be overlooked while they are mostly silent.

Whether or not some of them migrate to the Indian mainland, during April or May when the majority of the winter visitors take their departure, still remains a matter of conjecture. I have been able to gather no further information that throws any additional light on this question.

With regard to the second half of the query—'which are the fosterers' of this cuckoo in Ceylon, very valuable evidence has recently been provided by Mr. Edward C. Fernando, Junr., son of the retired taxidermist of the Colombo Museum.

On May 2nd, 1952 he shot a young specimen of a cuckoo of this species that was being fed by a pair of Blackheaded Orioles *O. x. ceylonensis*.

After the above it seems more than probable that the young cuckoo observed by Mr. E. C. Fernando, Sr., being fed by Blackheaded Orioles at Kumbalgamuwa in April 1927 was also *C. micropterus*.

I now feel convinced that one of the 3 eggs in the nest of a Blackheaded Oriole at Nikawewa in the Kantalai district of the North Central Province on December 20th, 1940 which was slightly smaller and more heavily marked than the other 2 eggs, with a much tougher texture to the shell, belonged to a cuckoo which was most probably also this species. This egg measured 25.7×19.0 mm. and was said to weigh 617 mg. (sic) as against the average given by Stuart Baker for 16 eggs of the Indian Cuckoo collected in India— 24.4×19 mm., weight 281 mg.

It is to be hoped that, in time, by a critical examination of all nests of *Oriolus xanthornus ceylonensis* met with within the breeding range of the Indian Cuckoo in Ceylon or by the obtaining of oviduct eggs from the female cuckoo, the question, of the type or types of eggs laid by this Cuckoo in Ceylon, will be elucidated.

TONACOMBE ESTATE,
NAMUNUKULA,
CEYLON,
September, 1952.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS,
F.L.S., M.B.O.U.

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12. A GRANIVOROUS GREEN PIGEON

I shot a Southern Green Pigeon here in Coimbatore the crop of which contained seeds of a plant which grows extensively in the summer season in the dried up tanks and paddy fields and in black cotton soil areas. The seeds are light black in colour resembling